



*A place to connect. A place to thrive.*  
An agency of Upper Shore Aging, Inc.

**Brookletts Place - Talbot County Senior Center**  
**Annual Report – Fiscal Year 2017**  
**July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017**



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## **Mission**

The Mission of Brookletts Place - Talbot County Senior Center is to enrich the quality of life for Talbot County Seniors.

## **Brookletts Place**

*A place to connect. A place to thrive*

Brookletts Place is a center for seniors to gather and socialize with each other. It provides an aspect of community engagement for individuals 60 or older through the Center's facilities and various events throughout the year. As a place with an excellent reputation among its membership, Brookletts Place strives to continuously expand to provide even more services for area seniors over and above its well-rounded menu of available programming and resources. The facility is environmentally-sensitive with a state-of-the-art green roof that includes native plants and a sitting area. Other amenities include a yoga room, computer lab with Internet access, exercise room with gym equipment, TV/media room, large dining area, game room, roof terrace, multi-purpose room, and more.

The Center is currently open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. with the exception of most major holidays. Please visit our website at [www.brooklettsplace.org](http://www.brooklettsplace.org) or our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/brooklettsplace](https://www.facebook.com/brooklettsplace)) for our monthly calendar.

In order to raise additional revenue, rooms are available for rental after hours and on Saturdays. Please contact the Center at 410-822-2869 for additional information.

## Note from the Brookletts Place Manager

Our goal at Brookletts Place is to ensure that every person who enters our building feels welcome. We also stress that we are an active Center and we encourage participation in one or more of our programs. It is our belief that if you remain active, you will experience a longer and more enriched life. As this report notes, we offer a wide range of activities and are continuously looking for new programs, services and resources. Our goal is to remain “a place to connect; a place to thrive; a place to grow and a place to belong”.

We are extremely grateful to the 175 volunteers who provided 4,121 hours of service. Without their assistance and the generosity of our financial supporters we would not have been able to deliver many of our programs and services.

The staff at Brookletts Place would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported and/or participated in our programs.

Best Regards,

*Chadwick R. Brook*

## Community Programs and Partnerships

**Adult Services Media Workgroup:** a collaborative of senior-serving organizations that educates the community on senior issues through media outreach.

**Aging & Behavioral Health with Disabilities (ABHD) Workgroup:** The ABHD Workgroup’s goal is to limit the number of aging adults with mental illness who are at risk of homelessness or are currently homeless; identify providers willing to fill the need for housing and appropriate care of this population as they age and become unable to live independently, due to mental illness and somatic issues; explore needed workforce development to support these transitions; and identify as well as address other needs, as identified, of the aging population in the Mid-Shore region.

**Breakfast Bites:** a collaborative of senior-serving organizations that focuses on identifying and addressing issues of importance to the senior population in Talbot County.

**Delmarva Community Transit (DCT):** Provides public transportation to Brookletts Place, Monday – Friday. Visit <https://www.brooklettsplace.org/transportation> for more information.

**Talbot Hunger Coalition:** a network of community members working together to end hunger and improve access to healthy, nutritious food for Talbot County’s most vulnerable residents.

**Talbot County Commission on Aging:** advocates for the needs of senior citizens and provides information, guidance and recommendations pertaining to senior citizens to the Talbot County Council.

## Accomplishments

- Initiated a three-year, \$500,000 fundraising campaign. Funding initiatives includes expanding hours of operation to 4 p.m.; serving lunch on Fridays; increasing the number of people served through our Meals on Wheels Program from 90 to 120 and establishing a satellite center in St. Michaels. A portion of the proceeds from the fundraiser will also be used to purchase equipment for the kitchen to support the additional meals.
- Launched an initiative with the YMCA of the Chesapeake to include a full service senior center in their new facility in St. Michaels, MD.
- Formed a partnership with the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center (MCVRC) to offer free clinics to Mid-Shore residents of all ages who have been a victim of crime.
- Expanded Maryland Access Point services by adding the Hospital to Home grant to assist with care transition activities for older adults.
- Initiated a marketing communications initiative that included rebranding Brookletts Place.

## Staff

### **Manager**

Childlene Brooks

### **Program Coordinator**

Teresa Greene

### **Meals on Wheels Coordinator**

Cherl Knopf

### **Nutrition Program Aide**

Beverly Lewis

### **Program Counselor**

Pamela Limberry

### **Administrative Assistant**

Cheylla Lopez

### **Maryland Access Point Program Manager\***

Debbie Cavalier

\*This position is directly supervised by the Executive Director of Upper Shore Aging, Inc.

## Brookletts Place Leadership

### Upper Shore Aging, Inc.:

The center is operated by Upper Shore Aging, Inc. (USA), a nonprofit Area on Aging organization dedicated to serving seniors in Talbot, Caroline, and Kent counties. The USA Board of Directors and its executive director oversee the governance and administration of the senior centers in Kent, Caroline, and Talbot Counties.

### Advisory Committee:

The Advisory Committee consists of six to ten members appointed by the center manager. At least half of the committee members must be active center participants.

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to evaluate the circumstances and needs of older persons in Talbot County, communicate those needs to the center manager and USA, and advocate for the best interests of the county's senior residents.

The FY 2017 members were Jim Bachman; Judy Callahan; Joyce Goodwin; Carol Lofstedt; Priscilla Hilliard; Judith Musch; Bill Shrieves; Peggy Thomas; Anne Clucas; Andy Hollis; Childlene R. Brooks, Manager, Brookletts Place; and Gary Gunther, Executive Director, Upper Shore Aging, Inc.

### Fundraising Committee:

Brookletts Place has launched an ambitious fundraising campaign to raise \$500,000 to extend center hours, expand meal services, and establish a full service senior center in St. Michaels. The Fundraising Committee is responsible for planning, overseeing, and executing this fundraising campaign.

The Fundraising Committee members are Clairdean Black, Childlene R. Brooks, FayeAnn Carson, Anne Cerutti, Pete Cerutti, B.J. Egeli, Sharon Egerson, Diana Evans, Sandy Hale, Mary Ann Henker, Lucie Hughes, Eleanor Shriever Magee, Joan Muzzillo, Adrienne Rudge, Bridget Wheatley, and Michelle Zhao.

## Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2017

FY 2017 Revenue	
Federal Grants	\$153,341
State Grants	40,560
Local Revenue	198,147
Participant Contributions & Other Donations	71,617
Total Revenue	\$463,665
FY 2017 Expenses	
Personnel (salaries, benefits & mileage)	\$192,732
Operating Expenses	270,933
Total Expenses	\$463,665

# Center Activities Report

## **Education and Healthy Living:**

Brookletts Place provides a broad range of educational classes, workshops, and exercise programs to meet the interests of our members. Some of the programs are free, while others have a modest charge. Some of the classes are offered through a partnership with Chesapeake College. Educational programs on subjects like Financial Planning and Elder Law are offered at no charge. A total of 511 classes and workshops were offered in the past year attended by a total of 1,086 different members.

Additionally, during the 2016 tax season, individuals received help completing their tax returns by AARP TaxAide volunteers.

## **Arts and Crafts:**

Painting classes, both oil and watercolor, are offered at Brookletts Place. Crafts like Jewelry Collage and Needle Felting are offered periodically in partnership with the Talbot County Art Council. Talented instructors deliver these programs, which are offered at little or no cost to the participants. The First Baptist Church of Easton offers a variety of craft projects with a different theme each month. A total of 285 arts and crafts classes were offered in 2017.

## **Trips & Entertainment:**

Entertainment was offered every week at Brookletts Place. We were pleased to have some of our local talent like Shelley Abbott and The Jones Boys. Entertainers come from all over to perform at Brookletts Place.

Brookletts Place partners with Carpe Diem Arts, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving diverse audiences with quality arts experiences, representing a broad range of cultural traditions and artistic disciplines.

The center also hosted many special events, including a Valentine's dance for both couples and singles as well as a Mardi Gras party.

Brookletts Place arranged and hosted excursions throughout the year. Some were day trips, while others were overnight. The center is able to get the very best rates, making these excursions affordable for more of our seniors. Last year's trips included visits to Cape Cod, MA and Las Vegas, NV. A total of 476 people participated in our excursions last year.

## **Meal Programs:**

The center serves meals four days a week at no charge for residents 60 years old and older. For those able to afford it, a minimum contribution of \$2.75 is suggested. Last year we served 4,325 meals in the center to 352 different seniors.

Meals-on-Wheels is a program that provides meals to homebound seniors. Brookletts Place packages and distributes meals with the help of our center volunteers. Last year we delivered 22,619 meals to 126 Talbot County seniors.

## **Support Services:**

Brookletts Place is the access point for two important senior support services. "SHIP", the State Health Insurance Assistance Program provides free information and access to programs that may help with the costs associated with Medicare health and prescription drug coverage. In FY 2017, we served 393 clients and their families through one-on-one counseling, home visits and community presentations.

Maryland Access Point (MAP) is a statewide program funded by the Maryland Department of Aging and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene providing a link to resources for older adults, caregivers and individuals who have a disability. MAP provides durable medical equipment such as bath/shower chairs, transfer benches, walkers, wheelchairs and other items for loan or permanent use.

We served 611 residents through the MAP Program in FY 2017.

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